What is claimed is:

1. A function maintaining method for a fuel cell system, the fuel cell system including a fuel cell that is supplied fuel and an oxidant to generate electricity, a fuel tank that supplies the fuel to said fuel cell, a tank pressure sensor that detects a pressure of said fuel tank, comprising the steps of:

calculating, when a failure of said tank pressure sensor has been detected, the pressure of the tank before a predetermined time interval from the time of this detection and a fuel consumption amount and fuel discharge amount after the detection of said failure,

and estimating the pressure of the tank according to said fuel consumption amount and said fuel discharge amount.

2. A function maintaining method for a fuel cell system according to claim 1, further comprising the step of stopping generation of electricity of said fuel cell when the estimated pressure of the tank becomes equal to or less than a predetermined value.

3. A function maintaining method for a fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein said fuel cell system further comprises a discharge valve that controls a fuel discharge amount of the fuel cell, and wherein said fuel discharge amount is governed according to presence or absence of fuel discharge processing that opens said discharge valve.

4. A function maintaining method for a fuel cell system according claim 1, wherein said fuel cell system further comprises a temperature sensor that detects a

temperature of said fuel cell, and wherein said fuel consumption amount and said fuel discharge amount are governed based on the temperature detected by said temperature sensor.